(b) how many subscribers, so far, opted for Cell One in the State;

(c) the cities and towns proposed to be covered during the year 2003-04;

(d) whether BSNL has come out with new options for its WLL consumers in Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how many States and Central Government Organisation, so far, have opted for Cell One Mobile in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As on 31-7-2003, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) Cell One services in Karnataka has a cellular capacity of 3,07,000 lines with a subscriber base of 2,72,445.

(c) As on date the BSNL's cellular services is already available in 144 cities/towns in the State and around 62 additional cities are planned to be covered during the 2003-04 progressively.

(d) and (e) Yes.Sir. BSNL offers following options to the customers in respect of WLL (Mobile) handsets:

(i) Customer may bring his own handset.

(ii) Purchase of handset from BSNL upon payment of its cost in 25 monthly instalments of Rs. 200/- each.

(iii) Provision of handset by BSNL upon payment of Rs. 20/- p.m. towards Insurance, etc.

(iv) Provision of handset by BSNL upon payment of security deposit (refundable) of Rs. 5000/-.

(f) Two Central and Six State Government organizations have so far opted for Cell One service in the State of Karnataka.

Distribution of new telephone directory

3046. SHRI SURENDRA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has taken steps to distribute new telephone directory;

(b) if so, by when all the customers would be able to get the directory; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The printing and supply of telephone directory is an ongoing process and as per existing policy every telecom district of BSNL is to print and distribute telephone directories every alternate year and in the intervening year a supplementary directory is to be printed and distributed to the subscribers. While in most of the places the directories have been printed and distributed to the customers, at some places the supply has been delayed due to non-availability of contractors, court cases, arbitration cases etc.

(c) The policy for printing of telephone directories was revised in1998 and almost all the powers were delegated to the Chief General Managers of the Telecom Circles to ensure timely publication and distribution of the directories.

Development of IT sector

3047. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of Information Technology has helped in any manner to provide wireless telephones in the villages of the country;

(b) if so, what is the status in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide new technology and to develop further telephones and other Information Technology related facilities in the villages;

(d) the number of villages in Tamil Nadu where Government have come up with advanced facilities of IT during the current year; and

(e) whether Government have laid down any criteria for selecting villages in this regard?